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P 261530Z JUN 87
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0639
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY EMBBERLIN PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 02283

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, GE, GC, BZ
SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN ENTHUSIASTIC, GDR NEGATIVE,
ABOUT PROPOSAL TO HOLD OLYMPIC GAMES

1. WEST BERLIN HAILED THE PROPOSAL OF PRESIDENT REAGAN, MADE IN HIS JUNE 12 SPEECH HERE, TO MAKE BERLIN (EAST AND WEST) A FUTURE SITE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES. THE HEAD OF THE BERLIN SPORTS FEDERATION, DEPUTY MAYOR LAURIEN, AND GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN ALL GREETED THE IDEA ENTHUSIASTICALLY. AS FOR THE ACTUAL DATE, THE DISCUSSION WITHIN THE WEST BERLIN GOVERNMENT INITIALLY CENTERED ON 2000 AND 2004. THE TIMING ISSUE, HOWEVER, WAS GIVEN AN UNEXPECTED JOLT BY THE CONTINUING CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN SOUTH KOREA, THE SCHEDULED SITE FOR THE 1988 SUMMER GAMES.

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2. GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN PROPOSED LAST WEEKEND THAT BERLIN WAS AVAILABLE TO HOST THE 1988 GAMES, SHOULD THE IOC WITHDRAW THE GAMES FROM SEOUL. HE HAS TAKEN PAINS TO

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AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT BERLIN IS TRYING TO WREST THE GAMES AWAY FROM SEOUL, AND HE HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO INCLUDE BOTH PARTS OF THE CITY, EAST AND WEST, IN HIS PROPOSAL.

3. THE BERLIN FDP, PART OF THE CITY'S COALITION GOVERNMENT, WAS COOL IN ITS RESPONSE TO THE MAYOR'S SUGGESTION. ALTHOUGH IT ALSO LIKED THE IDEA OF HOSTING THE GAMES, IT FROWNED ON ANY UNSEEMLY OR PREMATURE EFFORT TO DO SO NEXT YEAR. FURTHER, IT WARNED THAT THE CITY WAS ILL-EQUIPPED TO SERVE AS OLYMPIC HOST, SINCE IT LACKED THE FINANCIAL MEANS AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

4. THE GDR POURED COLD WATER ON THE IDEA, SAYING IT WAS JUST NOT "REALISTIC." EAST BERLIN HINTED STRONGLY THAT SINCE IT WAS ALLEGEDLY THE SENAT'S FAULT THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COOPERATION PRESENTED BY THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY HAD BEEN SQUANDERED, IT WAS FOOLISH OF DIEPGEN TO THINK THAT THIS IDEA WOULD GET ANYWHERE.

5. THE MESSAGE WAS REINFORCED, ALBEIT BY IMPLICATION, PRIVATELY ON JUNE 23. IN A MEETING BETWEEN THE SENAT VISITS COMMISSIONER AND HIS GDR COUNTERPART (WALTER MUELLER, CHIEF OF THE MFA'S WEST BERLIN SECTION), MUELLER WAVED AWAY THE OLYMPIC AND OTHER PROPOSALS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, INSISTING THAT THE SPEECH WAS A "PROVOCATION" OF THE GDR.

6. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED, THE PRESIDENT'S OLYMPIC PROPOSAL IS POPULAR IN WEST BERLIN POLITICAL AND SPORTS
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CIRCLES. ALSO PREDICTABLY, GIVEN THE FREEZE THE GDR HAS PUT ON OTHER COOPERATION WITH WEST BERLIN, THE GDR HAS REACTED WITH A DISTINCT LACK OF WARMTH. KORNBLUM

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